

## ART-UNION OF LONDON.

The council being deputed to select a work of art for a 1500/- prizeholder, have purchased Mr. L. Haghe's fine work at the New Water Colour Gallery, "Meeting-room of the Brewer's Corporation at Antwerp," which, strange to say, had remained until this time without a purchaser. They have also selected one of the best of Mr. Hurlstone's works, from the Society of British Artists.

A beautiful plate, by Bacon, after Wehnert, "The prisoner of Olsure," has been bought by the council. A print of this, in addition to the illustrated "Allegro" and "Penseroso," will be presented to each subscriber of the current year. Mr. Herbert, R.A., and Mr. David Roberts, R.A., have added their names to the list of artists by whom these illustrations will be executed.\*

## THE STATUE STILL UPON THE ARCH.

The further removal, last week, of the scaffolding by the side of the arch at Hyde Park Corner, alarmed many of our readers out of their propriety, and produced us a crop of violent letters on the subject. Our former correspondent, "An Inhabitant of May-fair," expresses the feelings of horror with which, on returning to town after a visit to the country, he saw the statue still in its place, and the means of removal taken away. He continues, "I must confess, however, notwithstanding these feelings, mixed with anger, at the breach of faith on the part of Government, in not having removed the statue, that a degree of satisfaction came over me, when I saw this most absurd conjunction thus fully exposed; I felt what a length of wordy warfare would have been spared, had the 'whole hog,' as it is now, been shown at first. But, Sir, despite of this, despite of the declared, decided opinions of the Royal Academy, of the Institute of Architects, or very many others of the highest knowledge of art, and of the Government itself, in the face of all these, is this obstinate committee, now actually taking away more of the means for the removal of the statue, seeming determined, *volens volens*, that this defacement of the metropolis shall continue, in open derision of all public taste, and in insolent defiance of public opinion."

In the House of Commons, on Monday, Mr. C. Berkeley, who was to have asked a question relative to the Wellington statue, stated that he had received a communication from the noble lord the Chief Commissioner of Woods and Forests, requesting him to postpone doing so. Would the noble lord be able to answer the question on Friday or Monday next? Lord J. Russell replied, that the hon. gentleman would be aware that the committee for erecting the statue had declared, that the effect could not be seen till the scaffolding was removed. The scaffolding having now been removed to the extent they wished, he would be ready to answer the hon. gentleman's question on Friday or Monday next.

All London has already answered the question pretty conclusively; and, for our own part, we thought that the Government had done so too.

FOREIGN ARCHITECTURAL AND COL-  
LATERAL INTELLIGENCE.

Francesco Inghirami—the noted Italian antiquary, lately dead—was born at Volterra in 1772, and passed his first years of maturity in the military service of the order of Malta. Returned to his native place, it was the quarries of alabaster of that city, and the works made thereof, which first attracted his notice. They occupy nearly 300 persons, and the columns, capitals, vases, &c. made there, are conveyed over the whole of Europe. It is in eight different places that the hills above Volterra are opened for this purpose, which whitens the houses, as those of Lüttich are blackened by other sorts of industry. Having been thus directed towards art, Inghirami made a complete course of drawing at the Academy of Florence, and subsequently became a constant companion of Philip Hackert, and thus improved much in landscape and other painting. His acquaintance with Landi turned

him towards antiquity; and, on his return to Volterra, he became librarian and director of the Etruscan Museum. About this time (1816) he published his remarks on Micelli's splendid work, "L'Italia avanti il dominio dei Romani." This induced him to devote his whole time to the study of Etruscan antiquities, to which his transfer to Florence was very favourable. For, combining all his purposes in one establishment, he employed about forty draughtsmen, engravers, &c., in the old abbey of Fiesole (a work of Brunelleschi), under the name of Poligrafia Fiesolana. Here he brought out: "Monumenti Etruschi di Etruscan nome," 10 vols. 4to., 1820—1826. Then "The Galleria Homerica," 3 vols. 8vo., 1831—1835, at which Tischbein, and subsequently Schorn, co-operated. An entirely new vein of antiquarian knowledge was developed in Inghirami's "Etrusco Museo Chiusino," 2 vols. 4to., 1833, which represented and described a very rich collection of the ruins of this place, distant from the general road of antiquarian research. Another work of original stamp was his "Pittura di vasi etruschi," 4 vols., 1835—1837, in which he intended to give a complete selection of all vase pictures interesting for the history of art or civilization, or ancient mythology. His works on the antiquities of his native town and Tuscany are many—as *Sulle ricerche di Fiesole*, his description of Fiesole and its Badia, of the Palazzo Pitti, &c. The only fruit, however, of an activity of sixty years' duration, says Mr. Pallazzi, was poverty.—[*Archivio storico italiano*.]

*The Paving of the Champs Elises and of the Avenue des Invalides*.—The great avenue of the Champs Elises is to be provided with a substantial, uniform macadamising instead of the present pavement, which is to be intersected by bitumen foot-paths for the easier crossing of promenaders. There are also behind the Hotel des Invalides several large avenues planted with trees, such as A. de Villars, &c., which are to be included in this plan. All these well-aired places will increase in importance and value by the present amelioration.

*The Eglise of St. Denis*—will receive an additional ornament in two niches, which formed part of the front of the old church near the Caserne des Celestins, now demolishing. They contain the statues of Charles V. and Queen Jeanne de Bourbon, and have been presented by the municipality of Paris to the Minister of Public works.

*Covered Street Arches at Paris*.—A huge company, with a capital of fifty millions of francs, has just been formed, for constructing a series of passages covered from the Boulevard St. Denis to the Place du Châtelet. The company to be called C. des Galeries du Commerce.

*New Houses of Parliament at Berlin*.—As the procedure of this body turn out satisfactorily both to themselves and Government, plans for the erection of a permanent locale have been of late canvassed. The meeting of the representatives of a nation within the precincts of a royal residence might have done very well in the middle ages, but is quite incongruous now—even considering the mere rooms required for the diverse committees, the spaces for the library, and the piling and classifying of documents and records. As Berlin has (under Schinkel) grown up rather in a classic style of architecture, the same was, at first, thought of for the projected new houses. But the saying of Goethe, that "columns and windows will never agree," seems to be thrown in the scale—and thus it may be, that the new Houses on the banks of the Thamez may serve as a model for the Imperial Parliament of Prussia.

*Art-Union of Bonn*.—Since the great Düsseldorf Gallery had been abducted to Munich, the Netherlands was deficient in any larger collection of pictures. Still a great many artworks had remained behind from the time of the art-friendly elections, as well as the mediæval art-bloom of Cologne and Westphalia. On this account a society has been formed at Bonn to start an exhibition. The committee have invited many art-friends with the best success, where a number of paintings, most interesting for the history of art—even some Italian and Spanish works—have been found. Thus a room of armoury, also one for engravings, and another for modern paintings, will be arranged; for which latter object the Düssel-

dorf Steam Navigation Company have granted an exemption from freight. The exhibition will take place in the progressing building of the Hospital.

*Artesian Wells at Venice*.—As the first well of the kind bored on Campo St. Paolo has yielded satisfactory results, another has been made, of late, on the same locality. At a depth of 60 metres, strata of grit were attained, which being perforated, yielded an abundant stream of water. The column rises eight feet above ground, and yields every minute 160 litres of water. It created a thorough astonishment with the assembled multitude, that the stream of water, being brought in contact with a flame, burnt in a most vivid manner, which is produced by the carburated hydrogen gas it contains. This gas, which is often a concomitant of artesian springs, has been used for ages past as a means of lighting coal-mines in China, where it astonished some of the French missionaries, even before the introduction of gas-lighting in Europe. It is, however, an important question, whether such hydrogenised water as that of Venice will turn out potable.

*Grand Viaduct over the Garonne, at Bordeaux*.—This extensive plan had occupied, for some time, the study of a commission nominally instituted by order of the secretary of public works. The commission have decided on the execution of this great structure, by the means of which the Paris Railway will pass the Garonne, near Paludate, where a great terminus is to be erected for the combined three lines of Paris, Bordeaux, and Certe. The commission have formed a plan, which will neither influence the regime of the stream, nor encroach on the interests of navigation. The viaduct will be at a distance of 1,000 metres from the bridge of Bordeaux. The length of the span for crossing the main of the river to be 600 metres; but this length will have to be much extended on both sides, where the floodings of the stream take place, and would interrupt the communication with the lines. This work will be one of great difficulties, on account of the driving of the piles, as there is no solid ground but at the depth of 17 metres under the middle height of the river. The expense is estimated at ten millions of francs. [The French press begin already to grumble at the injudicious planning of so many costly works, surpassing the financial capabilities of the land.]

*The great European Railway Festival*.—A German journal proposes the celebration of a festival of a novel character. It is to be celebrated on the completion of "the great European line," as that from Berlin to St. Petersburg; St. Petersburg to Moscow and Odessa; Berlin to Vienna; Vienna to Trieste; Paris to Marseilles. Simultaneous trains are thus proposed to start from all the maritime termini on the Mediterranean, the Baltic, the Adriatic, and the Black Sea, and to converge in some city to be afterwards agreed upon, where this converging and combination of man's traffic and industry (an emblem of their social and political brotherhood) ought to be celebrated by appropriate popular and state festivals. Our contemporary thinks, that the distance from St. Petersburg to Marseilles (about 1,300 miles) can be safely done in three days.

*Improvements in China*.—[From the *Peking Gazette*.]—The paving of this metropolis has been hitherto bad, that after rain, horses waded up to their hips in mud, even in the principal streets. The means with which the improvement is to be effected are most characteristic, and worthy of notice. China was, at former times, so overburdened with specie, that whole caves of gold and silver ingots were sunk in the canal of Mukden as a reserve for future emergencies. In the present case, the Emperor orders that some capital (lying idle) should be placed on interest, to be employed in the paving of Peking, the improvement of the Imperial Canal, &c.

*New Works in Egypt*.—Mongel Bey, the chief engineer of the Nile barrage, has 12,000 men day and night driving piles with the steam pile-driving machines recently got from England, and which, with other machinery from France, also in use, are valued at 14,000 sterling. A project has just been put on foot at Alexandria to erect a building, to comprise a theatre, exchange, and casino.

\* Mr. Dominic Colnaghi, of Pall Mall East, has just been published two very good illustrations of the history mentioned.